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## 65. Request for transfer of taxation

Vierros, Marja Kaisa

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## 65. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF TAXATION

Inv. 61+62	at least 72 x ca. 15 cm	543?
Field No. XXXIVb+c	left margin 4 cm	
Glass Plates 221–22	bottom margin 2.5–4 cm	
Plates CXI–CXIII		

This papyrus was originally conserved as two separate inventory numbers, Invs. 61 and 62. The latter contained the signatures of a request for the transfer of taxation (ἐπίσταλμα τοῦ κομματικοῦ), while the former covered the middle part of a similar document with the beginning of the signatures.<sup>1</sup> Both were written in a column format, and, since their fragments are of similar size, they seem to be parts of the same roll. This conclusion is supported by the drawing made during conservation. The document's beginning has been lost. The CB-fragments (Inv. 61) measure between 1 and 1.5 cm in width. Their maximum height is 8 cm, but most of the better preserved fragments measure only 6 cm. The CC-fragments (Inv. 62) are also ca. 1.5 cm wide and ca. 6 cm high. Judging from the approximate length of the first signature, probably not more than one line is missing between the fragments (i.e., between the traces of ll. 6 and 7).

The scribe's handwriting is a professional cursive sloping to the right, typically used in the Petra *epistalmata*.<sup>2</sup> The hand looks very similar to that of **19** (written in 539/40), but the distinct *delta* of our scribe is not present in **19**, so the writer is probably not the same. The end of the text proper shows that the person whose account in the tax registers was to be burdened was called Dusarios. His signature (**m3**) can be identified as the hand of Dusarios, son of Valens, former prefect of Kastron Ammatha, as it appears in **18** and **23**.<sup>3</sup> The first signature (**m2**) must have belonged to Patrikios, son of Ailianos.<sup>4</sup> It is quite poorly preserved, but the hand appears to be the same rather large uncial as in his signatures in **22**, **47**, and **50**. Moreover, the traces of his name and title support the identification.

What makes **65** significant is the preserved signature of the registration official (χαρτοφύλαξ). Signatures in the Petra *epistalmata* are extant in **5** and **23–25**, but none of them preserves the subscription of the official receiving the request. Here the *chartophylax* simply confirms in one line that he will make the requested changes. The official was most probably called Leontios, and he carried the honorific title εὐλαβέστατος.<sup>5</sup> The same Leontios obviously reappears sixteen years later in a division of property, **28** (559), as the last subscriber,

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1. Inv. 62 was originally studied by Ludwig Koenen and Inv. 61 by Marjo Lehtinen and Robert Daniel.

2. Requests for the transfer of taxation were a common type of document among the Petra papyri (**3–5**, **19**, **23–25**, and **65–67**).

3. Dusarios was involved also in **2**, written in Gaza in 538, but his role there is unclear. He was the maternal grandfather of Theodoros' wife (**18**) and might also have been the father of Euthenios, who was a tax collector and *politeuomenos* in **3–4** and **22**.

4. For Patrikios, see P. Petra IV, p. xix, Introduction to **45–47**, and esp. Introduction to **50**.

5. In **19** 12 comm. and **23** 3–4 comm., it was assumed that the χαρτοφύλαξ in the present document was called Alpheios, son of Valens, i.e., he was the same man who appeared in **23**. After the fragments' new arrangement, it is clear that this was an error.

i.e., in the position of the notary.<sup>6</sup> There, the title εὐλαβέστατος was misread as his patronymic (see 28 79 with comm.). This honorific was in legal and ecclesiastical literature and in Egyptian papyri carried only by members of the clergy, and we have assumed a similar usage in Petra.<sup>7</sup> The ecclesiastical status may certainly have been combined with a number of other roles, perhaps even that of a private notary, but it is difficult to understand how an ecclesiastic could have served in a public function connected with civic administration.<sup>8</sup> It must be significant that Leontios carried the honorific in two chronologically dispersed documents (see further l. 10 comm.), but we have to leave the problem unresolved.

The date and main details of the transaction leading to this request have not been preserved. The change in the tax registers was intended to take effect starting from a seventh indiction. As it happens, the same people figure in another *epistagma*, 23 (August 17, 544), in which Dusarios requested the keeper of public records (δημόσιος χαρτοφύλαξ) to relieve his account in the tax registers and to burden the account of Theodoros, son of Obodianos, with three-fourths of a free *iugerum* from the forthcoming eighth indiction.<sup>9</sup> He had earlier acquired its ownership from Patrikios, son of Ailianos. In 65, Patrikios titled himself as *comes*, which tallies well with the honorific μεγαλοπρεπέστατος, which he carried in 23. Similarly, in 45, a tax receipt from 544/45, Patrikios signed his name with the title of *comes*. The amount of free *iugera* is not wholly preserved in 65, but it begins with “half,” so it may well have been the same as in 23: a half and a fourth. Both documents contain the word τοποθεσία (“plot”). It seems obvious that 65 presents the previous change in the registration of the plot, which reappears in 23: it was passed first by Patrikios to Dusarios and then by Dusarios to Theodoros.

Since 23 was written in the seventh indiction and 65 most likely in the sixth, 65 was probably drawn up only about one year earlier, in 543. The preceding sixth indiction, in 527/28, is unlikely, because in 528/29 (50) Patrikios carried only the less elevated title λαμπρότατος πρωτεύων. It might appear odd that Dusarios sold the plot after owning it for only one year. Interestingly, the second transaction seems to have been registered quite soon after the event, not after a delay of several years, as was common in Petra. Since we do not understand why the registration was, in Palestine, sometimes delayed, sometimes not, it is difficult to speculate what reasons are here at play. Moreover, it is not certain that the transaction behind 65, from Patrikios to Dusarios, had taken place in the same year as the document was written. It might have been much older, and perhaps the very reason why it was eventually registered was the impending new transaction.

Unlike these two requests (65 and 23), all the other extant Petra *epistagmata* were addressed to the tax collectors (ὑποδέκται), either jointly or to an individually named official. We do not know if this variation was based on some difference between the responsibilities of the *chartophylax* and *hypodektes*, because the former is an almost unknown office.<sup>10</sup> All the *epistagmata* in which the place of writing is preserved were written in Petra, even though the property was often located outside Petra. In fact, only one preserved Petra *epistagma* (5) concerns property situated in the district of the city itself. Most requests addressed to *hypodektai* relate to property located in the neighboring town of Augustopolis, while 23 and evidently also 65, both addressed to a *chartophylax*, concern property in the garrison town of Sadaqa. It is difficult to say whether it is merely a coincidence that Theodoros’ family seems to have owned land mostly outside Petra or at least that their preserved *epistagmata* related to such land.

6. Note that Alpheios, son of Valens, appears as a *demosios chartophylax* in 23 (544) and as a notary in 22 (541). As it were, both Alpheios and Valens were common names in Petra.

7. For a few uncertain cases, see SB IV 7435.4 (6th c.) τῶν εὐλαβεστάτων καὶ σοφωτάτων ἐχολακτικῶν; XXII 15273 (5/6th c.) ἐνοικολόγος (“rent-collector”); XXVI 16344 (5th c.) οἰκονόμος.

8. See Schmelz, *Kirchliche Amtsträger*, 250–54, and cf. 295–318.

9. Despite the use of the word *iugeron* in the text, it is not certain if the fractions refer to *iuga* (taxation units) or *iugera* (land measurement units), see l. 2 with comm. In P. Petra III, they were interpreted as *iuga*, see 23 8 and 12–13 with comms., and Introductions to 19 and 35.

10. The office of χαρτοφύλαξ is attested only once in Egypt, P. Oxy. XVI 2059 (7th c.), rarely elsewhere; see 23 3–4 comm. For the archival and financial administrator *chartoularios*, see 2 178 with comm.

In any case, both Sadaqa and Augustopolis belonged somehow to the administrative district of Petra, though the registers were kept separate for different areas. The tax collectors of Petra were in **19** said to be responsible for the area of Augustopolis as well, though the property in question was registered in the δημόσιος κῶδιξ of Augustopolis. Moreover, **23** was also written in Petra, so it is unlikely that the office of *chartophylax* was located anywhere else, nor does the type of land explain the different officials involved. The request sent here to a *chartophylax* concerned a plot classed as “free” (ἐλευθερικόν), while the *epistalmata* addressed to the tax collectors concerned both “free” (**3–5, 19**) and “imperial” (**4–5, 25, 66**) land.

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- 1 και[ . . . ]ετ[ . . . ]ο[ . . . . . ] . . [ c. 7 ]ε.ρ[ c. 6 ]γ[ c. 16 ]ογ[ c. 7 ]ατ[ c. 8 ]πρ[ c. 8 ]  
 . . [ c. 9 ] . . [ c. 10 ] . . [ . . . δι' οὗ ἐπιτετέλλω σοι κουφίσαι μὲν]  
 2 τὸ ἐμὸν πρός[ωπο]ν καὶ οὐσίαν καὶ [ὁμ]άδα τὴν [ὑπ]ὲρ τῆς πρ[ο]γεγραμμέ[ν]ης τοποθε[σί]ας συντέλ[ειαν]  
 τῶ[υτ'] ἔστι [ἰο]υγέρ[ου] ἐλευ[θερι]κ[οῦ] τ[ὸ] ἥμ[ι]ν c. 8 ]  
 3 τοῦτο δ[ὲ] βαρῆς[αι] τ[ὸ] πρ[ό]σωπ[ον] κ[αὶ] ο[ὐ]σί[α]ν καὶ ὁμά[δα] τοῦ εἰρη[μέ]νου εὐδοκ[ι]μ[ω]τάτ[ου]  
 Δου[καρ]ίου ἀπὸ τῆ[ς] ἐν θ[ε]ῶ[ι] με[λλ]ούσης εἰσιέναι ἐβδόμης ἰνδικτίωνος]  
 4 καὶ εἰ[ς] τὸν ἐξῆς [ἅπαν]τα χρό[νο]ν, καθ' ἃ καὶ πα[ρ]ὼν αὐτὸ[ς] ὁ εὐδοκ[ι]μ[ω]τ(ατος) Δουκάρ[ιο]ς  
 συνέτε[λε]το κα[ὶ] θυπογράψ[ας]. πρὸ[ς] γ[ὰρ] ἀφ' ἀφάλει[αν] [ὑ]μ[ε]τέραν καὶ τοῦ δη[μο]σίου λόγου]  
 5 [καὶ] ἡμῶν δὲ αὐτῶν τοῦτο τὸ ἐπίσταλμα γ[ε]γένη[ται], ἐν ᾧ κ[αὶ] γὰρ καθυπέ[γραψα] † **m2** † Φ[λ]α(άουιος)  
 Πα[τρ]ί[κι]ος Αἰλιανοῦ κόμ[η]ς . . . . . ] . . λοπ[ . προγε]γραμμέ[ν]ος ἐπέτειλα]  
 6 [ c. 70 τοποθε]σί[α]ς [τὸ προγε]γραμ[μέν]ον  
 ἐλευθ[ερ] . . . . . [ c. 10 ]

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- 7 [ c. 45 ]π[ c. 20 ] † **m3** traces  
 8 ὑ[π]ὲρ τῆ[ς] προγεγραμμέ[ν]ης τ[ο]ποθε[σί]ας τὸ πρ[ο]γεγραμ[μέν]ον ἐλευθερικ[οῦ] ἰουγέρ[ου] τὸ  
 ἥμ[ι]ν c. 12 ] κουφ[ί]σ[αι] τὸν λόγ[ον] κ[αὶ] οὐσίαν καὶ πρόσωπ[ον] τοῦ εἰρημ[έ]νου  
 μ[ε]γαλοπρ[ο]στάτου Π[α]τρ[ικ]ίου Αἰλιανοῦ ἀπὸ τῆς με[λλ]ούσης [ἐν] θ[ε]ῶ[ι] ἐβδόμης ἰνδικτίωνος]  
 9 καὶ εἰς τὸν ἐξῆς ἅπαντα χρόνον, [ὧ]ς προ[γ]έγραπται ἀκολ[ο]ύθως ὑπογράψ[ας] χειρὶ ἐμῇ † vac.  
 10 vac. **m4** † Φλ(άουιος) Λε[όν]τιος εὐλαβ[έ]στατος χαρτοφύλαξ κατεδεξάμην καὶ κουφ[ί]σω καὶ βαρῆς[ω]  
 ἀπὸ τῆς ἐβδόμης ἰνδικτίωνος κ[αὶ] εἰς τὸν ἐξῆς τὸ προγεγραμ[μέν]ον ἐλε[υ]θερι[κ]οῦ ἰουγέρου]  
 τὸ ἥμ[ι]ν . [ c. 10 ]

3 ἰνδικτίωνος 5  $\text{P}^{\text{P}}$  Pap. 8 πρόσωπον μ[ε]γαλοπρ[ο] Pap. Αἰλι[ Pap. ἰνδικτίωνος 10 Φλ/ Pap. ευλαβ[ς Pap. [ἰνδ]ικ[ς Pap. ἰνδικτίωνος

## TRANSLATION

(Lines 1–5) . . . [by which I request you to relieve] my person, estate, and total assessment from the tax for the above-written plot, that is, for a half [and? . . . ] of a free *iugerum* and to burden with this the person, estate, and total assessment of the said most honorable Dusarios, from the [seventh indiction, which is coming] with (the will of) God, and for all following time, in accordance with what the most honorable Dusarios himself, [also] present, agreed to and signed. For [your security and the security of the public treasury and also of ourselves, this notification has been made], on which I, too, have signed below.

(Lines 5–6) (2. H.) † (I), the above-mentioned Flavius Patrikios, son of [Ailianos], comes, . . . [have requested that I should be relieved . . . ] plot, (that is,) [for the] above-written . . . free [*iugerum* . . .

(Lines 7–9) (3. H.) [† (I), the above-mentioned Flavius Dusarios, son of Valens, have requested that I should be burdened with the tax] for the above-written plot, (that is,) for the above-written half [and? . . .] of a free *iugerum* [and that this] should be relieved from the account, [estate], and person of [the said] most magnificent Patrikios, son of Ailianos, [from the seventh] indiction, which is coming [with (the will of) God], and for all following time, as has been written above accordingly, signing with my own hand. †

(Line 10) (4. H.) † (I), Flavius Leontios, most reverend keeper of records, have accepted and will relieve and burden [from the] seventh indiction, and for all following (time), for the half . . . of a free [*iugerum* . . .

## COMMENTARY

1–5 The phrasing is very similar in **23** 11–15.

2 το[π]οθε[σί]α: perhaps something like “agricultural plot, allotment of arable land.” The word τοποθεσία appears (mostly restored) in **23** 10, 12, 15; in its copy **24** 1, 5; and once in **39** 253. It is attested ca. thirty times in Egypt, where the usual sense is roughly “area under cultivation,” see, e.g., P. Cair. Masp. II 67162.9 (568); III 67169bis.44 (569). We cannot say if the words τόπος and τοποθεσία had any semantic difference in Petra; they were at least used in a similar context.

[ιο]υγέρ[ου] ἔλευ[θερι]κ[οῦ] τ[ὸ] ἥμ[ι]ν c. 8 ]: if the plot in question was the same as in **23**, the line must have continued with τέταρτον, producing the expected fraction of three-fourths. Although the text clearly contained the word *iugerum*, it is not quite certain that the fraction meant three-fourths of a *iugerum*: it might have denoted the amount of *iuga* consisting of land classified as *eleutherika iugera*, see above footnote 9. The fragments at the end of the line have some traces of letters belonging in lines 1–3, but their exact position is not known.

3 ἄπο τῆ[ς] ἐν θε[ῶ] με[λλού]σης εἰσέναι ἐβδόμη[ς] ἰνδικτίονος: cf. **3** 8, **4** 13, and **5** 13–14. In **23** 13, εἰσιούσης is used instead of μελλούσης εἰσέναι, but here the space seems to require a longer version.

4–5 πρ[ὸς] γὰρ [ἀσφά]λειαν κτλ: the phrase is restored according to **23** 14–15 (and **24** 4–5). See, however, the obviously different but poorly preserved form in **25** 12–13. The supplement at the end of l. 4 is somewhat longer than in l. 3: perhaps *demosios logos* was abbreviated or the formula was otherwise different.

5 † **m2** † Φ[ι]λ[άου]ιος Πα[τρ]ικ[ί]ος Α[ιλ]ιαν[οῦ] κόμ[η]ς . . . . . λοπ[. προγε]γραμμέ[νος]: the cross finishing the main text has a loop on top, but it is not exactly a *chi-rho* symbol. For the signature of Patrikios, cf. **45** 13, where his name is also directly followed by the title of *comes*. The signatures in the *epistalmata* seem to follow the formula “N, son of N, title, ὁ προγεγραμμένος ἐπέτειλα κουφισθῆναι/βαρηθῆναι κτλ.” Apparently, the title of *comes* is here complemented by a further specification. It might be possible to read the fragmentary word as με[γαλο]π[ρ]ο[ε]στάτος, if the dotted characters were capital letters, though it would be unusual for someone to refer to himself with an honorific title (cf. l. 10 with comm.). In any case, the honorific alone does not fill the space after *comes*, so something else must have been written in between.

7 A cross on fr. CCo6 most likely separates the first and second signatures. The hand of Dusarios (**m3**) is a small cursive, very different from that of Patrikios.

8 ὅ[τι] ἐν τῇ[ς] προγεγραμμέ[νης] τ[ο]π[οθε]σί[α]ς τὸ π[ρ]ογεγραμμέ[νον] ἔλευθερικ[οῦ] ἰουγέρ[ου] τὸ ἥμ[ι]ν: the word συντέλειαν (“tax”) would be expected after τ[ο]π[οθε]σί[α]ς, as in l. 2, but it is not possible to read it here; it may have been omitted by mistake.

10 † Φ[ι]λ[άου]ιος Ἀ[ε]λ[όν]τιος εὐλαβ[έ]στατος χαρτοφύλαξ: the name of the *chartophylax* is difficult to read, especially since the location of several fragments is uncertain. The fragment “loose CC20,” which cannot belong anywhere else, contains the abbreviation mark for *eulab(estatos)*, indicating that the official did not write his patronymic here. The name Eulaios, appearing in P. Ness. III 67.13, is hardly possible (cf. also Eulais in P. Ness. III 31.4). Moreover, it is hardly a coincidence that a Leontios, *eulabestatos*, appears also sixteen years later in **28** (559). Although in **28** he signs with capital letters, he is evidently the same man. Both signatures are unusual: instead of the patronymic, Leontios uses an honorific title for himself. Such a usage, which sometimes occurred in Egypt, is exceptional in Petra but was probably connected with the writer’s official position, being also found in a governor’s letter, see **60** 1 with comm. The omission of the article is sporadically attested in Egypt as well.

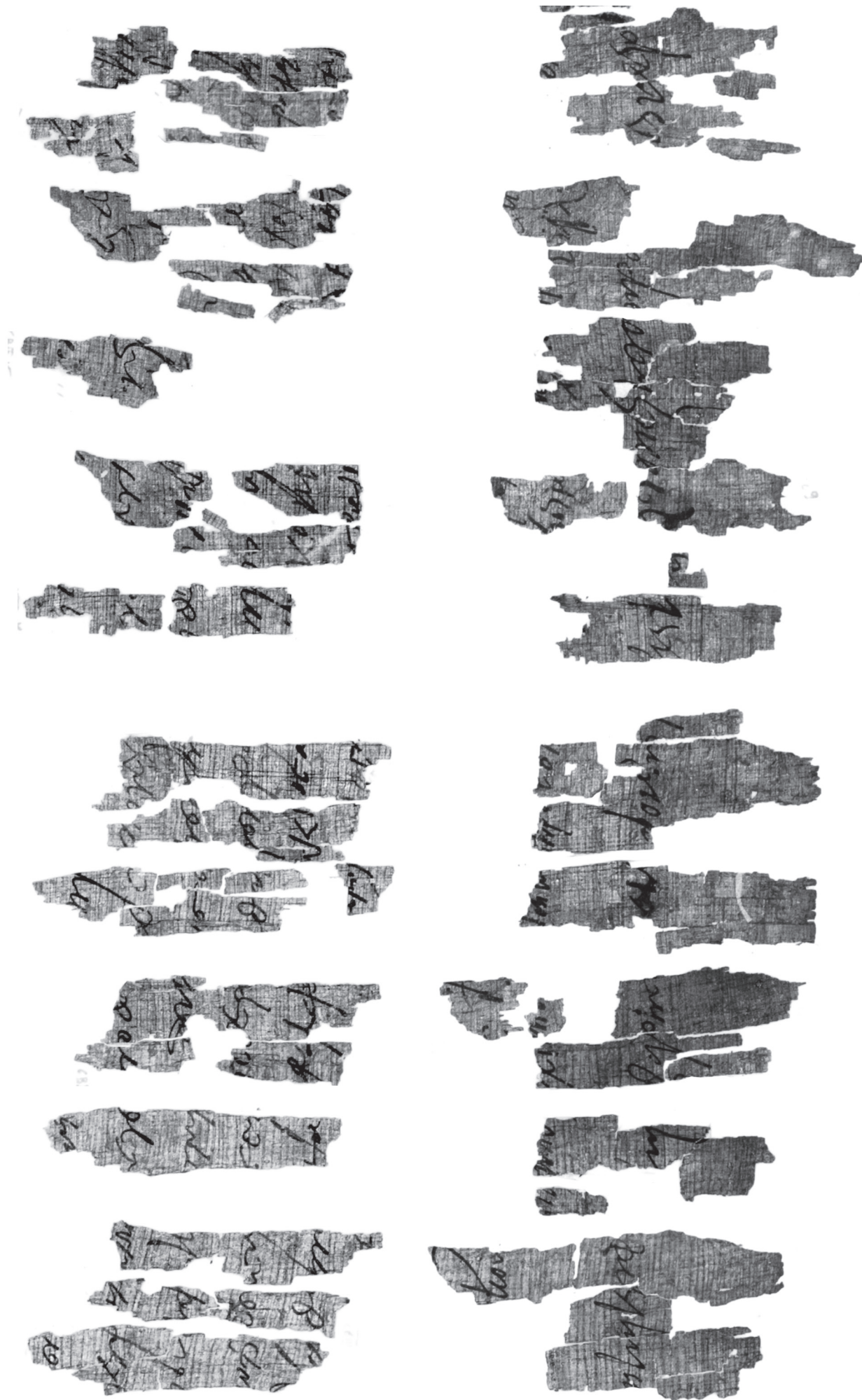
εἰς τὸν ἐξῆς τὸ προ[γεγραμμένον] ἔλε[υ]θερ[ι]κ[οῦ] ἰουγέρ[ου] τὸ ἥμ[ι]ν: it is impossible to read here εἰς τὸν ἐξῆς ἅπαντα χρόνον; the *chartophylax* has probably left the rest of the phrase incomplete.







1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



